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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: ESAB AB

Serial Number: 09/402185

Filed: 9/28/99

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FRICTION STIR WELDING

Attorney Docket Number: 5746

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Hon. Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Box DD
Washington, D.C. 20231

November 20, 2002

Sir:

Applicant submits herewith information of which he is aware, which believes may be material to the patentability of any claim and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56.

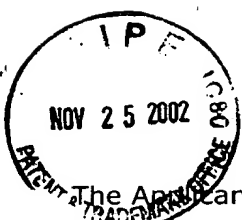
In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(a) exists.

While this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, it is not intended to be construed as an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b).

The Applicant has now received the following prior art references in connection a communication from the European Patent Office dated August 30, 2002 related to the counterpart PCT Patent Application.

The prior art references are set forth below and on the Form PTO-1449.

US Patent 5,319,179



The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner give full consideration to the information disclosed herein, make it of record in this Application, and complete and return the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

In compliance with 37 CFR § 1.97, this information is submitted before the mailing of a first Official Action on the merits. Further, this information was first cited in a communication from the European Patent Office in the counterpart PCT Application on August 30, 2002, less than 3 months prior to the submission of this information. No fee is due.

AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Authorization is hereby given to change any necessary fees in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 04-2219. Referencing our Docket Number 5746.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine L. Gemrich
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1ST CLASS CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on November 20, 2002.

Chrissy Stein

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